



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

Testimony on House Bill 5461
Transportation Committee
March 2, 2016

Chairmen Guerrero and Maynard, Ranking Members O'Dea and Boucher and Members of the Transportation Committee, I would like to thank the Committee for raising House Bill 5461: An Act Concerning the Certificate of Title for Older Model Motor Vehicles.

In Connecticut today, it's often difficult - if not impossible - to sell your car if it's over 20 years old. The Department of Motor Vehicles isn't required to issue a certificate of title and few buyers are willing to buy a car without a title. Instead, the DMV gives you an "Assignment of Ownership" form (Form Q-1) which you can fill out and give to the buyer. This form does nothing to reassure the buyer that the seller has clear title to the car, and almost no other state will accept this form as valid documentation of title.

As you can imagine, in today's internet marketplace, this prevents you from selling your car to prospective out-of-state buyers, but even in-state sales are affected. At least one Connecticut bank we know of refused to provide financing for the purchase of an older car that didn't have a title. And Connecticut is one of only three states in the entire country that doesn't issue titles for older cars.

The bill before you today is the result of conversations I've had with constituents who were unable to sell their cars because of the current law. Current law gives the DMV the discretion to issue a title for an older motor vehicle - but they never do. This bill would require the DMV to issue the title at the request of the owner and allows them to charge the owner an administrative fee to cover the cost involved.

It does not require the owner to get a title and it does not cost the state anything to issue the title. The bill is a simple fix to a growing problem and I hope this committee will report it out favorably.

Thank you again for raising this important issue. I look forward to working with you and the members of your committee as this bill moves through the process.